

Queen of Heaven ~ Lady of the Animals ~ Ruler of the Underworld ~ Giver of Numbers ~ Keeper of  
Pleasure ~ Lady of the Land ~ Queen of the Cosmos ~ Queen of the Dead ~ Corn Mother ~ Queen of the  
Celestial Light ~ Keeper of the Dark Crossroads ~ Mother of All

# Embracing the Goddess Sample eBook



Frances Billinghamurst

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**Sample e-book**

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The Temple of the Dark Moon also offers on-line courses about the Divine Feminine, the ancient Goddess through **The Goddess House**

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## Introduction

Once upon a time . . . our ancestors stood in awe of the Universe. Long, long ago our ancestors gathered to celebrate the Mystery that was all around them. This “Mystery” had no name yet over time many names and titles were given. Our ancestors developed an overwhelming desire to express this “Mystery” through physical representation – many of these have remained in tact over the millennium and today can be found in museums or read about in books or internet sites on ancient history.

That long forgotten time is being remembered again. People are beginning to gather to praise and honour the “Mystery” which today we refer to as the Ancient Goddess, the Divine Feminine. In every culture and religion there is a Divine Feminine of some description. Often though we have the search deep beneath the layers of patriarchal instruction to find her, but she is still there.

The mysteries of the Divine Feminine have been with us since the dawn of time, with the essential message being that of power and healing. Her words to us are few . . .

## Chapter 1

### History of the Ancient Goddess

"In beginning people prayed to the Creatress of life, the Mistress of Heaven.  
At the very dawn of religion, God was a woman . . .  
Do you remember?"

(by Merlin Stone, from "When God was a Woman")

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Images of the ancient Goddess are powerful. They reach out from the past to catch our attention. To put the Goddess into perspective, we must look back to Palaeolithic times (from 600,000 BCE to around 8,000 BCE), where she was the unifying principle underlying religion and all life.

From the Pyrenes in southern France, through to Siberia, tiny statues crafted from stone, bone and ivory have been found indicating belief in a Great Goddess, the Divine Feminine. These images date from around 33,000 BCE to 9,000 BCE. They did not depict ordinary women, but images of the creative force found within women, that which brought forth and nourished life. ....

Even today, there are many cultures that still honour the Great Goddess: ...

The Ancient Goddess will show us the way, all we need to do is listen for Her in the wind, the rain, and the stillness of Nature. She lives in the forests, the deserts, the mountains, the ocean, the rivers, the cities, and the fields. Listen . . . She is waiting to speak to us.

For I am the first and the last

I am the honoured one and the scorned one

I am the whore and the holy one

I am the wife and the virgin

I am the mother and the daughter

I am the mother of my mother

I am the barren one and many are her sons

I am she whose wedding is great and I have not taken a husband

...

Give heed to me

I am the one who is disgraced and the great one.

(*"Thunder: Perfect Mind"*, from Gnostic texts discovered in the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> century CE).

## Chapter 3

### Goddess Creation Myths

“In the beginning the Goddess was our guide.  
Her's was the voice from darkness.  
She unknown echoed within Her Earth womb.  
Ancient dancers heard Her call and  
Her rhythms counted time with the Moon.”

(Author unknown)

The beginning of the Universe was often described in terms of the Goddess, the Divine Feminine giving birth and life. From pre-Hellenic Greece to North America, from Africa and through the Near East, the creation stories are similar. First there was the nothingness which becomes chaos - all things in infinite potential but without form or order, the watery abyss of the Universe. The creator of this abyss was the Great Goddess who created all things.

....

## Chapter 5

### Construction of a Goddess Altar

An altar is a sacred space dedicated to a specific Goddess, or to the Divine Feminine in general. In order to create an altar all you really need is your imagination because there are no specific rules. You do not even need any special furniture as you can make a suitable altar on the top of your dressing table, on a bookcase shelf, or on a corner table.

When constructing your altar it is best to always keep in mind however that the true essence of an altar is one of reverence to your chosen divinity. If you are making an altar on the top of your dressing table, for example, keep in mind that it is supposed to be a sacred place and try to reframe from placing clothing etc on top of your altar.

## About the Author

Frances first connected with the Divine Feminine in the late 1980s through her study of mythology and ancient cultures. This connection was strengthened in 1993 when during a Wiccan rite known as "Drawing Down the Moon" the great Egyptian Goddess Isis made her presence felt. Since that time Frances has continued to strengthen her personal relationship with the Divine Feminine - the Ancient Matriarch - the Goddess.

In 1999 Frances founded the **Temple of the Dark Moon** and shortly after commenced organising workshops on Pagan spirituality, in particular Wicca (a nature-based religion).

Since 2002 Frances has been regularly writing for Australia's No.1 spiritual lifestyle magazine, "Insight", and her articles have appeared in over 10 separate publications around the world, including "SageWoman" and the 2008 Llewellyn "Witches" calendar. She has also appeared in the "Sunday Mail", the "Messenger" and the "Melbourne Age".

In recent years Frances has had an increasing desire to share her knowledge and personal experience of the Divine Feminine others in order to assist them to re-connect with this ancient, yet powerful force. In 2003 she commenced conducting workshops and giving public talks about the Divine Feminine and in 2007 she founded **The Goddess House**, where Divine Feminine, the Goddess, is honoured through services. It is through **The Goddess House** that Frances offers various on-line courses on Goddess spirituality:

- **"Discovery the Goddess"**: Traces the history of the Goddess from the cave art found in France and Spain, through to the temples of Catal Huyuk in modern day Turkey and the underground dream chambers of Malta. Discover what the Great Goddess once meant to our ancient ancestors and where she can be found today.
- **"The Goddess Within"**: Looks at various aspects of the Goddess from around the world and how, through using these aspects as archetypes, we can improve our own lives. Through the understanding of these ancient myths, we can obtain invaluable information on how to regain control of our life again.

Frances can be contacted through her web site –  
[www.templedarkmoon.com](http://www.templedarkmoon.com)

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